

NASA Announces Contest to Name X-Ray Observatory

NASA is searching for a new name for the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF), currently scheduled for launch in December, from the Space Shuttle Columbia. AXAF is the third of NASA's Great Observatories, after the Hubble Space Telescope and the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory. Once in orbit around Earth, it will explore hot, turbulent regions in the universe where X-rays are produced.

Dr. Alan Bunner, director of NASA's Structure and Evolution of the Universe science program, announced last week at the National Science Teachers Association meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., the start of a contest to find a new name for the observatory. AXAF is a Marshall-managed project.

Contest entries should contain the name of a person (not living), place, or thing from history, mythology, or fiction. Contestants should describe in a few



NASA's Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility (AXAF), a space-based X-ray observatory, will give astronomers a new, unobstructed view of the universe. AXAF offers scientists the opportunity to collect, observe and analyze X-ray radiation, which is normally absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. *Courtesy photo*

sentences why this choice would be a good name for AXAF. The name must not have been used before on space missions by NASA or other organizations or

countries.

The grand prize will be a trip to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. See *AXAF Contest* on page 5

Bullman Appointed Program Development Deputy Director at Marshall Center

Jack Bullman has been appointed deputy director of Program Development in Marshall's Program Development Directorate. He formerly



held dual assignments as technical assistant to the manager, Space Station Program Office, and manager, Sustaining Engineering, Space Station Operations and Utilization

Office at Johnson Space Center.

Bullman joined Marshall in 1981 when he was assigned to the Payload Operations Control Center and worked on the first three Spacelab missions. Prior to that, he

served with private industry at McDonnell Douglas in Houston, involved in Space Shuttle guidance, navigation, control, and ascent trajectory activities, and in St. Louis with the cruise missile development project. He then worked for Teledyne Brown Engineering in Huntsville on the Spacelab Program.

Since 1986, Bullman has been assigned continuously to NASA's Space Station activities, serving initially as a member of the Space Station Operations Task Force. Other assignments include acting chief, Facility and Operations Assessment Branch, Space Station Program Office, Reston, Va.; chief, Operation and Utilization Office and deputy chief engineer, Space Station Work Package One Project Office at Marshall.

Marshall Center Observes Earth Day Today

A tree planting ceremony will be held as part of Marshall Center's Earth Day activities at 10 a.m. today in front of Marshall's Child Development Center (MCDC), Bldg. 4494. Charles Horn, Chief of the Water Division at Alabama's Department of Environmental Management, and Jeff Luvall of Marshall's Global Hydrology & Climate Center will speak. Winners of the Center's "Spot an Environmentalist" and Earth Day T-shirt logo contests will be announced.

A recycling display, located in the lobby of Bldg. 4200 until Friday, offers an array of environmental literature and recycled sculptures and artwork by pre-school children who attend the MCDC.

Secretaries' Day: See page 2

Marshall Managers View Importance of Secretaries' Roles

Editor's Note: Today has been designated as National Secretaries Day. Although not a national holiday, the occasion provides an opportunity for bosses to show their gratitude to secretaries and administrative professionals. To commemorate the day here at the Marshall Center, the Marshall Star asked several managers, who will remain anonymous, to share their feelings on the importance of having a secretary. Their comments follow.

"Growing up, I had the occasion to visit my mother at work when I was home from school. She was a secretary. I still



Amy Rape, CM01

remember the blue ink from the mimeograph machine on her hands, the clickity-clack of the old black typewriter, and those funny, squiggly lines of short-hand. But her supervisor always took time to tell me how valuable my mother was. Now I understand. Administrative assistance in the office is a critical part of an efficient, dynamic organization. Whether it's travel, time and attendance, budgets, scheduling or correspondence, it completes the team. I'd like to take the time to say thanks and recognize how valuable the contributions are to the Marshall Center."

"Secretaries represent the heartbeat of their offices. Without them nothing would be possible! They keep their bosses' appointments and meetings on schedule as well as manage telephone calls, visitors and mountains of correspondence and documentation flowing through the office... Secretaries are truly worth their weight in gold because they are so vital to every organization within the Center. A substantial part of our overall achievements can be traced to a secretary or secretaries who demonstrated excellence in teamwork to get the products out. They are truly indispensable."

"The secretary position is the one area where the total operation of the office comes together. Marshall is a better place



Andrew Reed, EH43

remember the blue ink from the mimeograph machine on her hands, the clickity-clack of the old black typewriter, and those funny, squiggly lines of short-hand. But her supervisor always took time to tell me



Rick Wallace, EB32

because of the expertise and efficiency of its outstanding secretaries."

"Our secretary knows the internal workings of our office

down to the location of each employee at any given time of the day. She is competent, efficient, familiar with the office automated systems, and has a fantastic attitude and a bubbly personality. She understands the

different individual personalities of the people within the office and does not take any situations personally. She keeps each individual informed of pertinent information as it crosses her desk and is diligent in tracking action items."



Eunice Adams, BK01

"What does my secretary mean to me? Survival!"

"Coming from private industry, I was not prepared to deal with the bureaucracy — mountain of forms, special procedures, etc. and 'this is the way it has always been done.' Having a knowledgeable, persevering secretary that knows how to deal with time cards, travel, training, and memos, plus keeping all of this organized and maintaining those records, is invaluable to not just me but our organization as

a whole."

"The world of the secretary has drastically changed over the last several years. While typewriters, telephones, and steno pads once were standard

secretarial tools, these have all but been replaced with computers, e-mail and fax machines (well—we do still have telephones but even they are more complicated now!) So, my secretary has had to almost become a 'computer genius' just to survive! She has done a great job in adapting to the changing world of the professional



Helen Eddleman, DA01 and Glynda Thomas, DD01

See *Secretaries Day* on page 4

New Jersey, Louisiana Schools Win 5th Annual Moon Buggy Race

by Joy Carter

A team of students representing the College of New Jersey, in Ewing, rolled to victory Saturday in the 5th Annual "Great Moon Buggy Race" at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Team members won a trip to Kennedy Space Center in Florida to view a Space Shuttle launch.

In the high school division, a team from Monterey High School, in Monterey, La., finished in first place. The team's prize is a weekend at Space Camp in Huntsville.

Teams representing 11 colleges and high schools from across the United States competed in the event, racing their versions of a "moon buggy" over a half-mile course of simulated lunar terrain at the Space & Rocket Center. The creative inventions were modeled after the NASA Lunar Roving Vehicle that was used by astronauts to travel the Moon's surface.

In the college division, a team from Pittsburg State University, in Pittsburg, Kan., placed second, and the University of Tennessee, in Knoxville, finished third.

A second team from Monterey High School took second place in the high school division, and Eastlake High School, in Chula Vista, Calif., placed third.

Rain showers throughout the day failed to dampen spirits or slow competitors. Each human-powered moon buggy was piloted by one male and one female student.

The race was sponsored by Marshall Center — where the Lunar Roving Vehicle was designed and developed. Other



The college division winning team from the College of New Jersey, in Ewing, race their version of a "moon buggy" to victory during the 5th Annual Great Moon Buggy Race last Saturday.

Photos by Emmett Given

sponsors were the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics; the Alabama Aerospace Teachers Association, sponsor of the Space Camp prize; and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

"The Great Moon Buggy Race is a challenging, hands-on experience for students that combines creative engineering, teamwork and the spirit of competition," said race coordinator Dr. Jim Dowdy, university relations officer at Marshall. "And it's a learning experience. Regardless of how well a team performed, all the participants learn about resolving engineering problems and about the engineering challenges of the space program."

In the college division, a team from Arizona State University, in Tempe, won an award for best design from an original, creative concept and best technical solution to navigating on a planetary surface. In the high school division, the best design award went to Autauga County Vocational Center, in Prattville, Ala. The awards were presented by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

College teams competing in the race were the College of New Jersey, Ewing; the University of Evansville, Evansville, Ind.; Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kan.; Southern Illinois University, Carbondale; Arizona State University, Tempe; Auburn University, Auburn, Ala.; the University of Puerto Rico at Humacao; and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

High school teams were Eastlake High School, Chula Vista, Calif.; Autauga County Vocational Center, Prattville, Ala.; and Monterey High School, Monterey, La.



Team members from Monterey High School, Monterey, La., navigate an obstacle during Saturday's Great Moon Buggy Race, finishing first place in the high school division.

STS-90 Lifts Off on 16-day Mission

The shuttle Columbia and its seven astronauts lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center on time Friday at 1:19 p.m. Central time initiating a 16-day mission to study the human nervous system.

STS-90 is the first Shuttle mission to focus completely on the study of the human nervous system. Marshall has a Microgravity Research Program experiment that may help researchers to gain new understanding of human renal and bone marrow cells and tissues. Researchers expect to glean information that will help overcome the physiological challenges encountered during space flight and assist in the treatment of diseases here on Earth.

The first efforts focused on activating systems in the Spacelab module which houses many of the 26 experiments

Columbia is scheduled to land at Kennedy on May 3 at 11:09 a.m.

Secretaries' Day

Continued from page 2

secretary and without her, our office would be bordering on chaos!"

"Webster defines secretary as 'one employed to handle correspondence, keep files and do clerical work for an individual or a company.' But a secretary at the Marshall Center goes way beyond that. Marshall secretaries are the best of the best. Just as Marshall engineers and administrative personnel are an elite society—so are Marshall secretaries...they play a very large part in our exploration and discovery endeavors."

"I have been fortunate over the years to have worked with several excellent secretaries. Their competence, dedication and hard work made a significant difference in me being able to accomplish my work. When I think of some of their qualities, I remember their professionalism, their competency, courtesy, and loyalty. I really appreciate what they contributed!"



Jim Bilbro, Chief of Marshall's Optics and Radio Frequency Division shows Arch Galloway, Military/NASA Legislative Aide for Sen. Jeff Sessions, a high-quality, lightweight mirror fabricated using a new technique developed by optics engineers at Marshall, during a visit at Marshall April 17. These mirrors may prove key in the development and performance of tomorrow's advanced space telescopes.

Team Effort Results in Cost Savings

The NASA Integrated Services Network (NISN) Transition Team successfully negotiated, planned and executed the transition of NASA networking systems from a dedicated DS3-based multiplexed infrastructure to the use of a commercial Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) service offering of the Network B FTS2000 vendor. This

effort resulted in a \$5 million cost savings.

The transition team met the challenge resulting in a full transition of NASA's non-critical networks to ATM. NISN Transition team members include Kathy Hatley, Carl Stover, Daniel Scott, John Steedman, Alvin Dixon, Gus Gloe, Anthony Lisotta, Bessie Whitaker, Ken Freeman and Dharmesh Shah.

Marshall Recognizes Volunteers' Efforts

The observance of National Volunteer Week, April 19-25, recognizes the many volunteers who give freely of their time and skills to enrich lives and support worthwhile projects. Among the more than 95 million people who volunteer annually are the women and men of Marshall Space Flight Center. They volunteer in communities where they live, as well as lend assistance to programs at Marshall.

Marshall Center's Education Office has approximately 400 Project LASER volunteers and an additional 20 volunteers

who support activities at the North Alabama Science Center. The recent Great Moon Buggy Race, sponsored by Marshall, brought together 40 Marshall employees to assist with the event.

In 1997, the Marshall Center's Speakers Bureau received the help of 55 Center employees who spoke to civic clubs and professional organizations about their work at Marshall. And, as the countdown begins for the May 16 Marshall Open House, more than 600 Marshall employees have volunteered to lend assistance throughout the day.

Upcoming Events

Open House Committee Seeks Help Distributing Flyers

Marshall Center's Open House Committee needs your help in spreading the word about Open House to your friends and neighbors in the local community. If you would like to help distribute Open House flyers, visit the Open House website or contact Michele Fowler by e-mail or call 4-0392

Marshall's Open House is set for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. May 16. Visitors will be able to see the Space Station being built, meet astronauts, see rocket tests and visit Mission Control Huntsville, in addition to a host of other exciting activities. The official homepage for Marshall's Open House is up and running. Visitors to the site can volunteer, peruse the exhibiting organizations' homepages, or look up Marshall Open House policies and guidelines. Retirees interested in volunteering should call Billie Swinford at 4-0087. The web address is: <http://www.msfc.nasa.gov/openhouse/> or for more information on the open house, visitors may call 1-888-901-NASA.

Cooper to be Honored at Retirement Reception May 2

A retirement reception honoring Margie Cooper is planned for May 2 at Epworth United Methodist Church.

Cooper, a longtime child care provider at Marshall Child Development Center (MCDC), will retire May 29. Past and present MCDC families are invited to attend.

For information, contact Shirley Blair at 4-5607; Wanda Nelson at 4-7284; or Dave Siersma at 4-1325.

Bldg. 4203 Parking Lot Closed For Painting this Weekend

Weather permitting, the Bldg. 4203 parking lot will be closed Saturday and Sunday for painting, according to Marshall's Facilities Office.

Correction

The North Alabama Science Center was stated as being temporarily located at Calhoun Community College in last week's *Marshall Star*. The center will be permanently located at Calhoun, where JD Horne, assistant director for Marshall's Center Operations Directorate, will serve as executive director for the next year.



The NASA Alumni League met for their spring meeting on Thursday, April 9. Acting Center Director Carolyn Griner (second from left) is shown with members Dr. Walter Haeussermann (left), Ed Buckbee (second from right), and Ruth Von Saurma. Photo by Jack Ray

AXAF Contest

Continued from page 1

Canaveral, Fla., to see the launch of the observatory aboard the Space Shuttle. Ten runner-up prizes will be awarded and all entrants will receive an AXAF poster.

The grand prize is sponsored by TRW Inc., AXAF's prime contractor. The AXAF Science Center in Cambridge, Mass., is conducting the contest for NASA. NASA will announce the final selection of the winning name later this year.

Contest rules, electronic entry forms, and additional information can be found on the Internet at: <http://asc.harvard.edu/contest.html>. Entries also can be mailed to: AXAF Contest, AXAF Science Center, Office of Education and Public Outreach, 60 Garden Street, MS 83, Cambridge, Mass. 02138. Mailed entries must be postmarked no later than June 30, 1998. All entries must state a name for the mission, along with the reason the name would make a good choice.

The observatory, now in the final stages of assembly and testing at TRW's facility in Redondo Beach, Calif., is more than 45 feet long and weighs 10,500 pounds. AXAF is the largest and most powerful X-ray observatory ever constructed, and its images will be more

than 10 times sharper than any previous X-ray telescope. This focusing power of the telescope is equivalent to the ability to read a newspaper at a distance of half a mile. Cosmic X-rays are produced by violent events, such as when stars explode or galaxies collide. X-rays also are emitted by matter heated to many millions of degrees as it swirls toward a black hole. The only way to observe these and other extremely hot astronomical sources is with a space-based X-ray telescope.

Full Cost Training Provided

Full Cost is an accounting concept that ties all Agency costs (including civil service personnel costs) to major activities. This concept will be implemented at Marshall this year.

A special course is being offered to provide Full Cost guidance for anyone involved in resources in any capacity. This eight-hour course, held from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., will be taught by Marshall personnel. Sessions will be held during April, May and June and limited to 25 attendees. Dates and locations are available by contacting LaVerta McGlathery by e-mail, or attendees may signup via AdminStar.

Employee Ads

Miscellaneous

- ★ Kenmore clothes washer/dryer, white, need timer, \$125 pair. 753-2278
- ★ Weslo cardioglide exercise rider, \$40; Taylormade golf bag, \$75. 971-9710
- ★ Dinette set brass and glass table, four upholstered chairs, \$115. 883-2918
- ★ Golf club set, woods, irons, putter, bag (RH), Macgregor, \$125. 881-9167
- ★ Craftsman remote garage door openers, \$10 each. 837-7382
- ★ 1983 28' Holiday Rambler travel trailer, new refrigerator, new tires, \$4,950. 423-3847
- ★ Roto tiller Troy-bilt, 8HP, Briggs and Stratton, \$800. 420-2444
- ★ Glaspar 17ft. runabout, 115HP Johnson w/ power trim, walk-thru windshield, depth finder, skis, \$1,450. 883-8257
- ★ Antique walnut gate-leg table and four chairs, \$400 set. 519-6557
- ★ Craftsman 12HP riding mower with grass catcher, \$200. 837-7382
- ★ NAD 3020A 60WPC integrated amp, \$100; NAD 4150 digital AM/FM tuner, \$100; heathkit 60WPC amp, \$50. 464-3590
- ★ Passport radar detector with accessories, \$75. 722-0777
- ★ CKC registered shih-poo puppies, \$125 each; CKC multi-poo puppies, \$150 each. 753-2278
- ★ 1984 15 foot Challenger bass boat w/70 HP Mercury/trailer/trolling/motor, depth finder, accessories, motor needs work, \$2,000. 880-3063
- ★ Maytag washer & dryer, \$250; GE washer & dryer, extra large capacity, \$860, will take \$600. 757-8163
- ★ One pair of German double light wall sconces, \$60. 882-6832

Vehicles

- ★ 1987 Isuzu Pup sport pickup, less than 80K miles, maintenance records, \$3,000. 883-1874
- ★ Chevy S-10 pickup, 5-speed, air, radio, trailer hitch, 96K miles, \$3,250. 233-4382
- ★ Mercury Tracer LS, 20K miles, warranty, 4-door, auto transmission, air, \$10,200. 883-0282
- ★ 1993 Saturn SL2, 54K miles, all available options except leather and sunroof, midnight blue, \$8,200. 536-5914
- ★ 1994 Grand Voyager SE, 59K miles, integrated childseat, rear air, new tires, sunscreen, remote entry, V6, \$10,750. 721-0617
- ★ 1990 Acura Integra GS, 3-door, auto, sunroof, options, 85K miles, \$7,000 o.b.o. 461-0902
- ★ 1995 Buick Park Avenue Ultra, options, one owner, 79K miles, \$17,500
- ★ 1989 Olds Delta 88, \$2,500 o.b.o. 922-0958
- ★ 1993 LeSabre, one owner, jade-stone metallic,

41K miles, \$9,600. 883-7509

- ★ 1991 Toyota Camry DX, 4-door, 80K miles, asking NADA average retail price, \$6,350. 864-0442
- ★ 1988 Caravelle 185, I/O, w/sundeck, 175HP, Chevy 4.3L, \$4,800. 757-8163
- ★ 1984 Ford van E350, one ton, 4kw generator bi,A/C, set up for camping, \$7,300. 883-5750
- ★ Ford Ranger 1990, maroon and silver, 4.0L, automatic transmission, high miles, \$2,900. 883-5823

Found

- ★ Keys in Building 4487. Call 5-4758 to identify.

Free

- ★ Puppies need good home. 851-6864

Center Announcements

- ☛ **MARS Fishing Club** — The MARS Fishing Club had its second tournament on April 4 at Wheeler/Decatur Boat Harbor. First place went to Ross Evans/Chris Marion with six fish weighing 8.32 lbs. Second place went to Charles Kilgore/Tim Smith with five fish weighing 6.58 lbs. Third place was taken by Deon Smith with one fish weighing 1.04 lbs. Big fish honors went to Ross Evans again with 2.09 lbs. The club would like to have more participation. Call John Pea at 4-8437 or Charlie Nola at 4-6367 for additional information.
- ☛ **MARS Ballroom Dance Club** — The MARS Ballroom Dance Club will offer intermediate Mambo and Merengue lessons, 7 to 8 p.m. and beginners' Foxtrot and Triple Swing lessons, 8 to 9 p.m. on May 4, 11, 18 and 25. The classes will be held in the Parish Hall of Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church at 8020 Whitesburg Drive. These lessons are available to club members and their partners/guest at a cost of \$8 per person. For more information call Pat Sage at 544-5427.
- ☛ **MESA** — The Marshall Engineers and Scientists Association, IFPTE Local 27 will meet April 23 at 11:30 a.m. in the MESA Office, room C-105, in the northeast end of Bldg. 4471. Refreshments will be served and all members are invited.
- ☛ **MOO** — The Management Operations Office retirees will meet for breakfast/lunch on April 23 (4th Thursday each month) at the Cracker Barrel in Madison at 10 a.m. In addition to retirees, all present or former MOO employees are welcome. Call 539-0042 if you have any questions.
- ☛ **STOP ABUSE** — Aware of waste, fraud or abuse? Phone the MSFC Office of Inspector General at 544-9188 or send complaints to mail

stop M-DI. Confidentiality will be maintained.

- ☛ **Shuttle Buddies** — The Shuttle Buddies will meet for breakfast April 27 (each 4th Monday) at 9:15 a.m. at Shoney's, University West. For questions call Deemer Self at 881-7757.

- ☛ **Toastmasters International** — The NASA Lunar Nooners Toastmasters Club will meet April 28 at 11:30 a.m. in the 4610 cafeteria conference room. For more information, call Debbie Hagar at 461-4992, or Lee Johns at 544-5142.

- ☛ **Training Opportunity** — The Program/Project Management Initiative announces that the third Project Management Shared Experiences Program course "Creative Approaches in Project Management" will be held April 20-24 at the Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, MD. If interested contact Sherry Douglas at 202-554-8677 ext. 27 or e-mail at sdouglas@tadcorps.com.

- ☛ **Public Inquiries** — Please visit the Public Inquiries Office located in Bldg. 4200, room 101. Imagine better disease fighting drugs and medicines, a movie studio where out-of-this world effects won't be just "special effects" and booking your accommodations at a bed and breakfast in space—a place to rest and relax after a round of golf without the effects of gravity. Read about these and more in the Advanced Space Transportation Program brochure. Other publications and handouts related to Marshall and NASA are available.

Job Opportunities

Reassignment Bulletin 98-16-JB, AST, Technical Management, GS-801-13, Space Shuttle Projects Office, Solid Rocket Booster Project, KSC Resident Office. Closes April 23.

Reassignment Bulletin 98-13-RE, AST, Reliability & Quality Assurance, GS-861-12/13 (2 vacancies), Safety and Mission Assurance Ofc., Space Station Assurance Ofc. Closes May 4.

Reassignment Bulletin 98-17-CL, AST, Environmental Engineer, GS-819-12/13 (2 vacancies), Center Operations Directorate, Environmental Engineering & Management Office. Closes May 4.

CPP 98-41-DC, AST, Telemetry Systems, GS-855-14, S&E, Astrionics Lab., Computers & Data Systems Div., Flight Data Systems Branch. Closes April 27.

CPP 98-43-JB, Supv. AST, Technical Management, GS-801-15, Center Operations Directorate, Logistics Services Office. Closes April 27.

CPP 98-44-JB, Support Services Supervisor, GS-342-15, Center Operations Directorate, Technical Information and Operations Services Office. Closes April 27.

MARSHALL STAR

Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama 35812

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